



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Brad Sherwood
707.521.6204

Sonoma Valley Recycled Water Project Draft EIR Released

Public Comment Sought; Public Hearing Set

Santa Rosa, CA – The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency), on behalf of the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District (SVCSD), is releasing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for public comment today to assess potential environmental effects of the Sonoma Valley Recycled Water Project (Proposed Project).

The Agency is currently studying water reuse systems that could be built in Sonoma County to irrigate large landscaped or agricultural areas with recycled water. Approximately 2,800 acres of agricultural and urban lands have been identified within Sonoma Valley that could potentially use recycled water; as a result, the Agency is studying the Proposed Project, which would provide a reliable alternative source of water from the SVCSD Treatment Plant for agricultural and urban use.

The SVCSD Treatment Plant, located on East 8th Street in Sonoma, is the largest of seven wastewater treatment plants operated by the Agency. With over 120 miles of gravity fed sewer lines, the plant serves the greater Sonoma area, extending northwest to Glen Ellen. Currently, wastewater is treated to a secondary treatment level and discharged into San Pablo Bay from November 1 – April 30. Between May 1 and October 31, recycled water is used for local irrigation of agricultural areas and wetland enhancement. The SVCSD is in the process of upgrading the wastewater treatment process to a tertiary treatment level.

The Proposed Project includes:

- Thirty-four miles of recycled water pipelines extending from the SVCSD wastewater treatment facility to the users
- Storage facilities, 1) an operational and capacity storage reservoir adjacent to the SVCSD wastewater treatment facility, 2) two abandoned City of Sonoma steel water storage tanks for operational storage, and 3) additional capacity storage reservoirs for long-term storage
- Pumping facilities, 1) one booster pump station to maintain sufficient water pressure to supply recycled water through the distribution system; and 2) one distribution pump station to pump recycled water from one operational and one capacity storage reservoir to the pipelines
- Service turnouts for pipelines and other facilities for the purpose of maintenance
- Associated connecting pipelines and other appurtenances for connecting project components

Draft EIR Analysis:

The Draft EIR includes an analysis of environmental impacts associated with the proposed project and identifies potentially significant impacts, primarily temporary impacts resulting from construction activities, in the following areas: aesthetics; air quality; biological resources; cultural resources; geology, soils, seismicity, and mineral resources; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; land use and planning; recreational and agricultural resources; noise; public services; transportation and traffic; and utilities and service systems. Growth inducement potential, secondary effects of growth and cumulative impacts are also addressed in the Draft EIR.

Public Review Period:

A 53-day review period of the Draft EIR has been established beginning **September 15, 2006** to **November 7, 2006**. Written comments on the Draft EIR may be submitted to:

**Sonoma County Water Agency
Attn: Amy Harris Mai, Senior Environmental Specialist
PO Box 11628
Santa Rosa, CA 95406-1628**

Public Meeting:

A public meeting on the Proposed Project will be held on:

**Tuesday, October 24, 2006
10:30 a.m.
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Chambers
575 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA**

More Information:

Visit the Sonoma County Water Agency's Website for more information.
www.sonomacountywater.org/projects.

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Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at www.sonomacountywater.org.